

We claim:

1. A three-part color developing kit comprising:

(I) a first concentrated aqueous solution having a pH of from about 11 to about 13.5 and comprising:

- (a) at least 0.25 mol/l of sulfite ions,
- (b) at least 2.5×10^{-5} mol/l of iodide ions,
- (c) at least 0.05 mol/l of bromide ions, and
- (d) at least 0.5 mol/l of a buffer having a pKa of from about 11 to about 13.5,

(II) a second concentrated aqueous solution having a pH of from about 3 to about 6 and comprising:

- (a) at least 1 g/l of a vinyl pyrrolidone polymer, and
- (b) at least 0.05 mol/l of an organic antioxidant, and

(III) a third concentrated aqueous solution having a pH of from about 1 to about 3 and comprising:

- (a) at least 0.05 mol/l of a color developing agent, and
- (b) at least 0.005 mol/l of sulfite ions.

2. The color developing kit of claim 1 wherein said first concentrated aqueous solution has a pH of from about 12 to about 13.5, said second concentrated aqueous solution has a pH of from about 4 to about 6, and said third concentrated aqueous solution has a pH of from about 2 to about 3.

3. The color developing kit of claim 1 wherein said color developing agent is present in said third concentrated aqueous solution in an amount of at least 0.1 mol/l, said organic antioxidant is present in said second aqueous concentrated solution in an amount of at least 0.075 mol/l, said sulfite ions are present in said first concentrated aqueous solution in an amount of at least 0.5 mol/l, said iodide ions are present in said first concentrated aqueous solution in an amount of at least 7.5×10^{-5} mol/l, said bromide ions are present in said first

concentrated aqueous solution in an amount of at least 0.1 mol/l, and said sulfite ions are present in said third concentrated aqueous solution in an amount of at least 0.01 mol/l.

4. The color developing kit of claim 1 wherein said pyrrolidone polymer is present in said second concentrated aqueous solution in an amount of at least 2 g/l.

5. The color developing kit of claim 1 wherein said antioxidant is hydroxylamine or a hydroxylamine derivative.

6. The color developing kit of claim 1 wherein said buffer in said first concentrated aqueous solution is a carbonate buffer.

7. The color developing kit of claim 1 wherein one of said first, second, or third concentrated aqueous solutions contains a polycarboxylic acid or polyphosphonic acid metal ion sequestering agent.

8. A three-part color developing kit comprising:

(I) a first concentrated aqueous solution that has a pH of from about 12 to about 13.5 and comprises:

- (a) at least 0.5 mol/l of sulfite ions,
- (b) at least 7.5×10^{-5} mol/l of iodide ions,
- (c) at least 0.1 mol/l of bromide ions, and
- (d) at least 1 mol/l of a carbonate buffer,

(II) a second concentrated aqueous solution having a pH of from about 4 to about 6 and comprising:

- (a) at least 2 g/l of poly(vinyl pyrrolidone), and
- (b) at least 0.075 mol/l of a hydroxylamine antioxidant,

and

(III) a third concentrated aqueous solution having a pH of from about 2 to about 3 and comprising:

- (a) at least 0.1 mol/l of 4-(N-ethyl-N- β -hydroxyethylamino)-2-methylaniline sulfate (KODAK Color Developing Agent CD-4), and
- (b) at least 0.01 mol/l of sulfite ions.

9. A photographic processing chemical kit comprising:

- a) the three-part color developing kit of claim 1, and
- b) one or more of the following compositions:
 - a photographic bleaching composition,
 - a photographic bleach/fixing composition,
 - a photographic fixing composition, and
 - a photographic stabilizing or final rinsing composition.

10. A working strength color developing composition obtained from:

(I) a first concentrated aqueous solution having a pH of from about 11 to about 13.5 and comprising:

- (a) at least 0.25 mol/l of sulfite ions,
- (b) at least 2.5×10^{-5} mol/l of iodide ions,
- (c) at least 0.05 mol/l of bromide ions, and
- (d) at least 0.5 mol/l of a buffer having a pKa of from

about 11 to about 13.5,

(II) a second concentrated aqueous solution having a pH of from about 3 to about 6 and comprising:

- (a) at least 1 g/l of a vinyl pyrrolidone polymer, and
- (b) at least 0.05 mol/l of an organic antioxidant, and

(III) a third concentrated aqueous solution having a pH of from about 1 to about 3 and comprising:

- (a) at least 0.05 mol/l of a color developing agent, and
- (b) at least 0.005 mol/l of sulfite ions,

said working strength color developing composition prepared by:

- (A) combining said first, second, and third concentrated aqueous solutions in such a manner that the volume ratio of said first concentrated aqueous solution to said second concentrated aqueous solution is from about 1:1 to about 1.5:1, the volume ratio of said first concentrated aqueous solution to said third concentrated aqueous solution is from about 1:1 to about 1.5:1, and the volume ratio of said second concentrated aqueous solution to said third concentrated aqueous solution is from about 1:1 to about 1.5:1, and,
- B) simultaneously or subsequently, diluting said first, second, and third concentrated aqueous solutions with water in such a manner as to dilute said first concentrated aqueous solution at least 8 times, said second concentrated aqueous solution at least 10 times, and said third concentrated aqueous solution at least 10 times.

11. A method for providing a color image comprising contacting an imagewise exposed color silver halide photographic material with the working strength color developing composition of claim 10.

12. The method of claim 11 further comprising desilvering said color photographic silver halide material after said contacting step.

13. The method of claim 11 wherein said color photographic silver halide material is a color negative film.

14. The method of claim 11 wherein desilvering said color photographic silver halide material is carried out by contacting it with one or more desilvering processing compositions without removing said material from said working strength color developing composition.